

TO RECEIVE THE STAR OF COURAGE

1. MRS MARY SAWAN

In the early morning of 19 March 2015, Mrs Mary Sawan went to the defence of family members during a home invasion in Malvern East, Victoria.

At 4:30am, Mrs Sawan was upstairs in the family home getting ready for work, while her husband was downstairs in the kitchen and one of her children was asleep in the living room.

Three armed and masked intruders entered the rear yard of the residence and approached the back door of the house. Mrs Sawan's husband heard the sound of breaking glass and attempted to prevent the intruders from entering but they forced him back. Two intruders then made their way into the house, while the third man standing in the rear doorway with a long arm firearm drawn.

One of the intruders began assaulting Mr Sawan, who had fallen backwards onto a couch. He frantically called out for his son, who was sleeping in the living room, to call the police. The boy quickly entered the room to assist his father who was being held down and assaulted by one of the intruders with a machete. At this point, the third man discharged his weapon a number of times.

On hearing the shots, Mrs Sawan left the bedroom and ran to the bottom of the stairs. She saw her husband and son being assaulted by the two masked and armed intruders.

Without hesitation, she jumped on one of the intruders, pulled off his balaclava and pushed him against a wall. Shocked, the offender stepped away and attempted to retreat through the back door. Mrs Sawan clawed at his clothing and scratched the man as he got away from her.

Despite further gunshots being fired by the third man, Mrs Sawan then tackled the second intruder who was holding a pistol. She grabbed at his balaclava causing him to lose his balance and drop the backpack he was carrying, spilling its contents. He frantically began retrieving the contents.

From his position outside, and witnessing the struggles inside, the third armed and masked offender again raised his rifle and discharged it in Mrs Sawan's direction, narrowly missing her.

By this time, Mr Sawan had gotten to his feet and together with his son picked up household items and began throwing them at the second intruder, who was trying to collect items that had fallen from his backpack.

The second offender scrambled out the back door and all three intruders immediately left the scene. The three men were later identified by police and charged.

By her actions, Mrs Sawan displayed conspicuous courage.

TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL

2. MR MITCHELL CAMPBELL

On the afternoon of 10 July 2004, Mr Mitchell Campbell went to the assistance of a surfer who had been attacked by a shark at Noiseys Beach near Gracetown, Western Australia.

Mr Campbell and another man were surfing when they witnessed a shark violently attack a nearby surfer. Noticing another shark nearby, they quickly made their way to the safety of the beach.

On seeing the body of the victim reappear on the surface of the water approximately 30 metres off shore, Mr Campbell and the other man ran out across a reef, scrambled onto their surf boards and swam to the assistance of the surfer. Mr Campbell did not know the whereabouts of the two sharks.

When Mr Campbell and the other man reached the severely injured surfer, they observed that he was most likely deceased. With some difficulty they managed to pull the man through the surf towards the beach.

Ambulance officers later arrived and confirmed the victim had not survived the attack.

By his actions, Mr Campbell displayed considerable bravery.

TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL

3. MR LYLE ERNEST COLLINS

On the 6th of February 2018, Mr Lyle Collins went to the assistance of a man being attacked by a swarm of wild bees near Rochester in Victoria.

At about 6pm Mr Collins was assisting his neighbour to remove an old fence post from his rural property. As they used a tractor to pull the post onto a nearby road, they disrupted a large wild-bee hive. The bees became aggressive and agitated and swarmed into the air.

A number of bees quickly flew towards Mr Collins' older neighbour, covering his face, arms and body in a thick layer. Mr Collins, who was in the cab of the tractor, told his neighbour to run but the man couldn't hear him.

By this time some of the bees had entered the cab of the tractor, forcing Mr Collins to get out, and as he did the bees began stinging him. He then ran 400 metres to his neighbour's house in order to collect items to provide some protection from the bees.

He quickly returned to his neighbour who had fallen to the ground and was covered in the constantly stinging bees. Mr Collins, who was also being stung, used towels to remove the bees from his neighbour and then covered him with a sheet. He commenced using spray insecticide on the bees, causing them to become more agitated.

Mr Collins was then able to drag his neighbour away from the area. Emergency services later arrived on the scene and both men were taken to hospital where they were treated for their extensive bee sting injuries.

By his actions, Mr Collins displayed considerable bravery.

TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL

4. MR MATTHEW IAN FLANAGAN

On the morning of 18 January 2018, Mr Matthew Flanagan went to the assistance of a man caught in dangerous seas at Bithry Inlet, New South Wales.

At about 10am, Mr Flanagan noticed a man clinging to a capsized canoe being pulled out to sea. He paddled his sea kayak towards the man and assessed his condition. He stayed with the man, as they were drawn out past the breakers where they would be able to cope with the swell without being tumbled about.

Mr Flanagan left the man in the water holding onto the overturned canoe as a floatation device and quickly navigated his sea kayak to shore where he raised the alarm.

He then re-entered the water, located the man again and attempted to tow him and his canoe through the rough seas to a less rocky area; however, this was not successful. By this time, Mr Flanagan had been overturned in his kayak on numerous occasions by the turbulent sea. He managed to locate a lifejacket in the kayak and get it onto the quickly tiring man in the water.

After abandoning the canoe, Mr Flanagan towed the man further out to sea and away from the rocks. He left the man bobbing in the water while he went to search for a safe place to bring him ashore. Returning a short time later, he then was able to tow the man behind his kayak towards a small cove.

Upon reaching the area, Mr Flanagan instructed the man on a safe method to approach the shore. Using the waves for momentum, the man was swept onto a sandbar and then into shallow water. The waves continued to dump the man, before Mr Flanagan was able to grab hold of him and pull him onto the beach.

Mr Flanagan found clothing, a foil blanket and some food in his kayak for the man before he went to seek assistance.

By his actions, Mr Flanagan displayed considerable bravery.

TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL

5. MS BREANNA JEANNE GILBERT

On the evening of 18 May 2016, Ms Breanna Gilbert went to the rescue of an elderly man who had fallen into the Isar river in Munich, Germany.

Ms Gilbert was on the Prinzregenten Bridge in Munich when she observed a lifeless body floating face down in the water. Without hesitation, she and another man jumped into the river, which was flowing extremely fast due to recent flooding. The temperature of the water was approximately 11 degrees.

Ms Gilbert and the other man managed to swim through the fast flowing water to the injured elderly man. With difficulty, they were able to grab hold of the man and head to the river bank approximately 200 metres down-stream from the bridge.

On reaching the river bank, emergency services and police removed the injured man from the water and began resuscitation efforts. Sadly the elderly man did not regain consciousness.

By her actions, Ms Gilbert displayed considerable bravery.

TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL

6. MR TIMOTHY THOMAS LEEMING

On 22 October 2015, Mr Timothy Leeming rescued an elderly woman from a burning vehicle at Pigeon Ponds in Victoria.

At around 2.30pm an elderly woman was driving on the Coleraine-Edenhope Road in Victoria when she lost control of her vehicle. The car left the road at-speed and collided with a tree before flipping onto its roof.

The driver was conscious but trapped inside the badly damaged vehicle by her seatbelt. Smoke then began to emit from the car.

Mr Leeming arrived on the scene and stopped his vehicle. Despite the smoke and debris, he quickly went to the car whilst a bystander called triple zero.

Through the smoke and tinted windows, Mr Leeming was able to observe the woman who was trapped. He entered the vehicle and managed to release the woman from her seatbelt before pulling her outside. He then carried her away from the wreck. A short time later the vehicle was entirely engulfed in flames.

By his actions, Mr Leeming displayed considerable bravery.

TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL

7. **THE LATE MR LUKE EDWARD MITCHELL**
(to be received by his brother Mr Shane Mitchell)

In the early hours of 24 May 2009, Mr Luke Mitchell displayed considerable bravery during an armed attack in Brunswick, Victoria.

At 2am, Mr Mitchell and a group of friends were exiting a nightclub in Brunswick when they became aware of an altercation between four men across the street. Three of the men were attacking the fourth man, who had intervened when the trio had begun arguing with a woman. The men began kicking and punching the fourth man before he managed to flee; however, two of the men began to chase after him.

As one of his friends yelled at the men to leave the fourth man alone, the men stopped and confronted her. Mr Mitchell then stepped forward to protect the woman and a fist fight broke out, with Mr Mitchell being knocked to the ground. One of the attackers was standing nearby with an old pram that he threw towards Mr Mitchell, narrowly missing him.

The fight appeared to end at this point and Mr Mitchell and their friends got into a vehicle and left the scene. They drove to a nearby convenience store and parked in the carpark. Mr Mitchell and some of their friends got out of the vehicle. Another car containing the men from the previous altercation stopped behind their car and got out. They were now armed with knives and a cleaver.

One of the men, who was armed with a knife, ran towards Mr Mitchell. As he tried to get to the entrance of the store, the other two men from the vehicle blocked his path. The men began to assault Mr Mitchell, who was knocked to the ground, and the attack continued, resulting in him being stabbed multiple times.

As one of their friends quickly called triple zero, the three offenders got into their vehicle and left the scene. First-aid was provided to Mr Mitchell and he was later transported to hospital, but sadly he did not survive his injuries.

Three men were later apprehended and charged.

By his actions, Mr Mitchell displayed considerable bravery.

TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL

8. MR TODD JONATHAN ROBERTSON

On the morning of 16 October 2016, Mr Todd Robertson rescued a man from a burning vehicle near Hamilton Plains in Queensland.

Mr Robertson and a friend were travelling on Shute Harbour Road when they noticed the traffic ahead had stopped. As they neared the scene, they could see that a utility had hit a power pole. Sparks and a large explosion were also observed at the top of the pole. The sparks ignited a jerry can of petrol in the back of the utility setting the vehicle on fire.

Mr Robertson stopped his car and both he and his friend ran towards the burning vehicle. The driver's door was ajar and the driver was still inside. The dazed and injured driver attempted to exit the vehicle however power lines lay on the ground nearby obstructing the man's exit, with one also on top of the utility.

Mr Robertson quickly approached the burning vehicle and made several attempts to assist the driver out, however the heat and power lines forced him back.

The driver managed to exit the vehicle. Without hesitation, and despite the intense heat and fallen powerlines, Mr Robertson removed his singlet and threw one end of it to the injured driver. The man held onto the singlet and tried to walk forward but kept staggering backwards.

At this point, a bystander arrived with a fire extinguisher and Mr Robertson directed the nozzle towards the injured driver dousing the flames. He then took the man by the hand and led him away from the burning car. Mr Robertson's friend instructed bystanders to gather wet towels which were placed on the injured man until emergency services arrived.

Unfortunately due to the extent of his injuries the driver did not recover.

By his actions, Mr Robertson displayed considerable bravery.

TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

9. MR LACHLAN JAMES BULMAN

On the morning of 1 April 2017, Mr Lachlan Bulman confronted a man wielding a knife in Strathmore in Victoria.

Mr Bulman was at his home in Strathmore when he became aware of an altercation taking place outside on the street. He quickly went to the front yard of his home and saw a tradesman from a neighbouring building site running down the road being chased by another man holding a large kitchen knife. The knife wielding man's two daughters were screaming at their father to stop and put the knife down.

Mr Bulman approached the scene as the armed man continued to yell and head towards the tradesman. Standing at arm's length from the aggressive offender, Mr Bulman attempted to verbally diffuse the situation. During this time the tradesman was able to move away from the armed man.

Without warning, the angry offender turned towards Mr Bulman and pointed the knife directly at him. Mr Bulman backed away as the offender continued to threaten to stab him. The offender then struck Mr Bulman on the jaw before taking the knife back inside a residence and later getting into a vehicle and leaving the scene.

For his actions, Mr Bulman is commended for brave conduct.

TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

10. MR DOMENIC PAUL CHIMIRRI

On the afternoon of 6 August 2016, Mr Dominic Chimirri evacuated a person from a burning house in Brunswick in Victoria.

Mr Chimirri was driving along Davies Street when he saw smoke billowing from the gutters of a house. He pulled his car over and called triple zero.

After making the call he quickly proceeded to the front door of the burning home, calling out several times to see if anyone was inside. As the front door was ajar he could hear that there was someone in the house.

Despite a smoke layer being visible in the home he went inside and began to search the rooms calling out for occupants. On reaching the rear of the house he saw flames coming from the sides of a heater in the room, and an elderly woman afraid to walk around the burning heater.

Mr Chimirri escorted the elderly woman past the heater before she pulled away from him, entered the kitchen, sat down and refused to leave the house. Realising that she was Italian, he spoke to her in Italian and convinced her to leave the burning home and he then helped her outside and to safety.

Shortly after firefighters arrived and by this point fire was already in the roof space and the home was filled with smoke. The house was destroyed by the fire.

For his actions, Mr Chimirri is commended for brave conduct.

TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

11. **MR GIANFELICE FONTE**
and
12. **MR MUHAMMAD USMAN**

On the evening of 15 May 2016, Mr Gianfelice Fonte and Mr Muhammad Usman rescued a woman who has hanging from a balcony of a building in Southbank, Melbourne.

Mr Fonte had returned to his apartment after finishing work for the evening when he heard screams for help. As he went to investigate, he was joined by Mr Usman, a security guard, who had also heard the screams.

They both went to investigate and discovered that a woman was hanging off a balcony on the 22nd floor.

Acting quickly, Mr Fonte and Mr Usman attempted to gain access to the woman's apartment by kicking at the locked entry door. When this was unsuccessful, they sourced a fire extinguisher, which they used to create an opening in the plasterboard wall next to the entry door to the apartment.

Mr Usman climbed through this opening and unlocked the apartment door. He and Mr Fonte cautiously approached the woman who had her legs over the balcony ledge. Without concern for their own safety, Mr Fonte and Mr Usman hung their bodies over the balcony and were able to drag the woman back to safety.

For their actions, Mr Fonte and Mr Usman are commended for brave conduct.

TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

13. MR CHRISTOPHER ALAN GANLEY

On the evening of 18 April 2016, Mr Christopher Ganley went to the assistance of people during an armed robbery at a pharmacy in Nunawading, Victoria.

Mr Ganley was at work in his business when he became aware of a commotion occurring in the pharmacy next door.

He immediately went to investigate and on entering the pharmacy he saw a man assaulting the pharmacist near the service counter.

The armed offender had initially entered the store holding an iron bar. He had approached the pharmacy assistant, grabbed her and made demands for drugs. He dragged her behind the dispensary counter to where the pharmacist was working.

Upon seeing the offender, the pharmacist began to head for the front door. The offender continued to make demands as he chased and grabbed her. He then dragged the pharmacist back inside by her clothing and hair towards the service counter.

Mr Ganley immediately approached the offender, who was continuing to threaten the staff with the iron bar. He tackled the offender onto the floor and held him until police arrived.

For his actions, Mr Ganley is commended for brave conduct.

TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

14. MR MARC ANDREW JOHNSON

In the early evening of 21 September 2017, Mr Marc Johnson assisted in the rescue of a man from rough water at the port of Hvar in Croatia.

Mr Johnson was aboard a taxi boat transporting a group of people between a cruise ship and the port of Hvar when a small boat nearby capsized, throwing all four occupants into the rough water.

Another person from the taxi boat dived into the choppy water and swam to the upturned boat. He assisted a male and a female who were clinging to the upturned vessel back to the taxi boat. The distressed male was in a weakened condition after falling below the surface of the water on several occasions.

The people on the taxi boat managed to pull the woman aboard but, due to the design of the boat, the choppy conditions, and the dead weight of the man, they were only able to hold his head above the water.

Despite the hazardous conditions, Mr Johnson quickly jumped from the taxi boat. Assisted by the other rescuer already in the water, they worked to push the exhausted man from below and with the help of others in the boat managed to get the man out of the water.

On returning to the harbour, the taxi boat was met by medical assistance.

For his actions, Mr Johnson is commended for brave conduct.

TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

15. MR WILLIAM JAMES SLATTERIE

In the afternoon of 18 January 2018, Mr William Slatterie rescued four people from the water at Thompson's Beach near Cobram, Victoria.

Mr Slatterie, aged 13 years at the time, was swimming at Thompson's Beach riverbank with a group of younger friends. Suddenly they heard faint screams coming from a woman and three children, who had gotten into difficulties in the water. None of them were able to swim and the conditions in the river were dangerous, with a strong current pushing swimmers away from the beach area.

Mr Slatterie immediately went to their assistance. He grabbed one of the boys and swam him to shallower water, before handing him to two of his friends. He then re-entered the water, reached the second boy and swam him back to the same spot.

By this stage, the woman and little girl were further out in the river and beginning to panic. The woman had the girl on her shoulders and they were being dunked up and down in the river due to the fast flowing current.

Mr Slatterie entered the water again and determinedly made his way to the woman and girl. He grabbed the woman by the arm and managed to drag her and the little girl to the safety of the river bank.

For his actions, Mr Slatterie is commended for brave conduct.

TO RECEIVE THE GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

16. MR TRENT MITCHELL DOLE

On 25 May 2017, four Northern Territory Police Officers rescued a woman from a burning home unit at Katherine in the Northern Territory.

At 6:30pm on 25 May 2017, the four police officers attended the scene of a home unit fire. As they arrived they heard the fire alarm sounding and thick, dark smoke could be seen inside the unit. The windows and doors were closed and the officers could feel the heat emanating from the building.

The officers were informed that the unit was occupied and so they immediately attempted to enter. Two officers managed to kick the door open, and all four officers then entered the unit in search of occupants.

The unit was full of black smoke coming from the kitchen and the heat was intense. Household items were melting and damage was being done to the walls.

An unconscious and unresponsive woman was found lying on the kitchen floor. Two officers immediately removed the woman from the unit and to safety, whilst the remaining officers searched other rooms for other occupants.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

TO RECEIVE THE GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

17. **THE LATE MR WILLIAM HENRY DOYLE**
(to be received by his great nephew Mr Gregory Byrne)
18. **THE LATE DR BERNARD HASELDEN QUIN**
(to be received by his son Dr David Quin)
19. **THE LATE MR WILFRED SHUGG**
(to be received by his great nephew Mr James Shugg)

Between 1940 and 1943, five men elected to remain on the island of Nauru to protect the Indigenous population and uphold law and order despite the threat of invasion by Japanese forces.

In 1940 the island's phosphate plant was attacked by German forces. Twelve months later a decision was made to evacuate the Island due to the outbreak of the Pacific War.

Family members were evacuated from the island however, five men, including the Government Administrator, concerned for the safety and welfare of the island's Indigenous population, elected to remain on the island to uphold law and order and also provide protection for the Indigenous population.

In August 1942, Japanese forces invaded the island and the five men were taken prisoner. They were interned in a house near the local hospital.

Just before dawn on 25 March 1943 all the men were executed by Japanese soldiers and their bodies were taken to an unidentified burial location. All their belongings were burned and traces of the incident removed.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.